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MASONIC MEDALS.

[Continued from Vol. X., page 92.]

XIII. A Lodge called *The Three Golden Keys* was organized at Halle, under a charter from the Lodge *The Three Globes*, of Berlin, December 14, 1743. St. John's Day, June 24, following, the brethren were presented by their Master Von Bruckendahl with Medals, struck in gold and silver. The obverse represents the Worshipful Master, in regalia, leaning upon a globe, and holding a plumb line in his right hand; at his feet are various Masonic implements; above him an eagle crowned, is soaring in the sun; in the background are columns, two erect, and a third fallen; in the foreground a cubical stone having on one face the letters C. S. B. R., and on another a square. Legend, STUDIO SAPIENTIA SILENTIO. [Figure 1.] The reverse has three hands clasped above a view of the city of Halle, with the moon and stars in the sky. Legend, ET NON FVCATA AMICITIA QVID NOBILIVS. In exergue, HALÆ MDCCXLIV D. XXIV. IVN. in two lines.

XIV. In grading a road near Pittsburgh, Pa, some years ago, on the field of General Braddock's defeat in 1756, the workmen reduced a small mound, which proved to contain the remains of various bodies, victims of that melancholy slaughter. Among them was found an oval Medal, about two and three-quarters by two inches, and in fair preservation. The obverse has the All-seeing eye above an arch of eleven blocks, the keystone having the Royal Arch cypher; from this stone hangs the letter G, surrounded by rays; over the arch, on the left is the sun, and on the right the moon; on the platform beneath is an altar with seven steps; on one side of the pillars that support the arch is a pot of incense, on the other a dagger, and branches of acacia on each side. The exergue is left blank for the owner's name to be engraved. The reverse has the two pillars; over that upon the right the sun, and over the other the moon, and the All-seeing eye at the upper edge of the Medal. Between the pillars are the Bible, on which rests the square and compass, between three burning tapers; on the right a level and sprig of acacia, on the left a beehive and ladder of three steps. In lower foreground a coffin and anchor. The Medal is of copper, heavily plated with silver. It probably

belonged to one of the soldiers in Braddock's Expedition, and is now in the possession of Dr. Alfred Creigh, of Washington, Penn., to whom we are indebted for a drawing of the Medal.

XV. An oval Medal of silver is, or was formerly, in the possession of a member of Nevada Lodge, Nevada City, which was originally the property of the late Captain Charles Tomkins, of Freeport, Gloucester Co., Virginia, who, during the Revolutionary War, was a prisoner at Dartmoor, England. His death occurring while he was still detained there, though allowed some liberty, his effects were sent home, and with them this Medal. It has an abundance of Masonic emblems; on the obverse, the Bible, square and compass, trowel, key, coffin, skull and bones, three links of a chain, and other devices. Around it, at the top the lettering, SIT LUX ET LUX FUIT, and at the bottom the motto, AMOR. HONOR. ET JUSTITIA. as on several already mentioned. The *three links* on the Medal give it more than usual Masonic interest, as this has been claimed by another body as a distinguishing emblem. This Medal, however, shows it to have been a Masonic token long before Odd Fellowship was thought of. The reverse has the two pillars on a mosaic pavement, sun, moon, All-seeing eye, and many other emblems. An engraving of this curious Medal can be found on page 10, volume 4, of the "American Freemason," from which the above account is taken.

XVI. On the founding of the first Masonic Lodge in Hilburghausen, November 25, 1755, called "Ernestus," a Medal was struck by Stockmar, of which Figure 2 shows the obverse:—Three masons, clothed in aprons and sashes, and wearing cocked hats and swords, are standing in a group facing each other, their arms crossed, and the right hand of each clasping the left of his neighbor: behind the one on the left is a globe, against which a square is leaning, and a gavel, trowel, and other working tools at his feet; behind the one on the right, a scroll passing between the legs of a pair of compasses, and in the background a temple with columns. Legend, IVNCTO CONATV. (By united effort.) In exergue, CONFRATERN. S. ERNESTI. HILPERHVSÆ in two lines. Reverse:—A mosaic pavement, on which lies a scroll, inscribed ARCANVM SCRVTATVS CVNCTA ADEPTVS (having learned the secret he knows all things): a hand holding a pair of compasses emerges from clouds which conceal the sun, whose rays are bursting out behind them. The hand is describing a mathematical figure on the scroll. In exergue, FVNDATA · VII · CALEND · DECEMBR · ANNO 4048. STOCKMAR F.

XVII. Medal struck for the semi-centennial anniversary of St. John's Commandery, No. 4, K. T. of Philadelphia, Pa. Obverse, between two olive branches, tied at the bottom, a Norman shield, containing Masonic devices referring to the Lodge, Chapter and Commandery degrees. The heraldry is poor, but may be thus described: Per fess, the upper part argent, having the words, BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH in two lines; the lower, parti per pale; the dexter, azure, charged with a square and compass; the sinister, parti per pale, purple and gules, charged with a double triangle braced, in the centre of which is the triple tau. (The emblem is placed on what may be called the fess point of this quartering; its color is not indicated, unless it be argent, which would not correspond with the symbolism of the degree.) The chief, parti of three per pale; the dexter, vert, charged with a Greek cross, (humettee,) the centre, sable, charged with a Maltese cross; the sinister,

parti per fess, sable and argent, alluding to the Beau-seant, and charged with a Templar's cross (patee). Over all, in fess point, an Eastern crown, pierced with a Latin cross (passion,) and surrounded by rays.* Above the shield a ribbon, having the motto, IN HOC SIGNO VINCES: over the ribbon a small helmet, affrontee. In exergue, ST. JOHN'S COMMANDERY NO. 4 MASONIC KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PHILADELPHIA PENNA. in four lines, the last slightly curving. Reverse, ST. JOHN'S COMMANDERY N° 4 K. T. SEMI CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY JUNE 15, 1869. in five lines, all but one curving, over a ribbon, having SIR and KNT. with a space left for a name to be engraved. Below the ribbon, CONSTITUTED JUNE 15. 1819. STATIONED AT PHILADA. in four lines, the first and last curving. This Medal is finely struck, and, but for the extremely poor heraldry, would be worthy of praise. It was suspended by a swivel from a clasp, with a ribbon the upper part of black and the lower of white, in which was woven the name of the Commandery in yellow letters on the black ground; and a Latin cross and the date of the anniversary, in red letters on the white ground, the top of the cross extending up into the black part of the ribbon. Bronze, size 28. The dies are said to have been destroyed, and the Medal is now quite rare. We are indebted to Henry G. Fay, Esq., of Brookline, Mass., for this Medal.

XVIII. Medal struck by the Lodge *La Bien Aimee*, at Amsterdam, in 1835, to celebrate the discovery of an ancient Masonic Document, purporting to have come to light in 1816, and to have been dated at Cologne, as early as June 23, 1535, and which has been a fruitful cause of Masonic discussion. On the third centennial of this discovery, the Lodge above named, assuming the authenticity of the papers, caused a Medal to be struck by Schonberg, at Utrecht. The obverse has within a circle of nineteen stars, CONVENTVM FRATER.: LIB.: CEMENTAR.: COL.: AGRI.: A. MDXXXV HABITVM GRATI CELEBRANT FRATRES NEERLANDICI. ORDINIS IN PATRIA SVA RESTAVRATI FESTVM SECVLARE AGENTES. A. MDCCCXXXV. The reverse has a radiant triangle, around which are the words, CHARTA FRATR.: COL.: AGRI.: D.: XXIV JVN.: MDXXXV. Within the triangle are the words, PRINCIPIA NOSTRORVM ACTVVM HISCE DVOBVS PRAECEPTIS ENVNCIANTVR. OMNES HOMINES VELVTI FRATRES ET PROPINQVIS AMA ET DILIGE. DEO QVOD DEI IMPERATORI QVOD IMPERATORIS EST TRIBVITO. [Figure 3.] The lettering is necessarily omitted in the cut.

XIX. The Russian-Turkish war which began in 1768, was closed July 21, 1774, when the Russians occupied Moldavia. In honor, perhaps, of this event, Mars Lodge was founded during that year, at Jassy, by Baron Von Gartenburg Sadogusky, then Commissioner General of the Imperial Russian Army. A Medal was struck to commemorate its establishment, the obverse of which shows a female figure reclining on clouds, wearing a plumed helmet; her head turned to the observer's right; in her left hand extended, she holds a serpent 'nowed,' a symbol of wisdom; in her right, a 'mound,' symbolizing power or strength; beside her are various Masonic working tools, a square, gavel, trowel, and compasses, with a skull and bones resting on a closed book; below her is a landscape. Legend, VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA. In exergue, SADOGURA. (Figure 4.) The reverse has, within a wreath of oak leaves, □MOLDAV CALCULUM ALBUM ADIECERUNT MAIORES, 574. The master of the


* The color of the cross and crown, of the square and compass, and of the various crosses in the chief, is not indicated, unless it be argent, which would not be the appropriate symbolic color in all cases.

mint where the dies were prepared was F. Comstadius; the engraver, Stockman. This Medal is said to be very rare.

XX. Medal struck by the Lodge Zur Saule (The Pillars) of Berlin, in 1774, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary, which occurred May 19th of that year. Obverse, a mosaic pavement, on which stands a pillar (alluding to the name of the Lodge) resting on a cubic stone, and surmounted by a globe; a cable-tow is entwined about it; a closed book is leaning against its base. Other emblems, — a globe, gavel, square, level, &c., are scattered over the pavement. St. John the Baptist stands near the pillar, holding in his extended left hand an open roll, upon which he is drawing a sketch with the compasses in his right hand; a crozier or cruciform staff is resting against his shoulder; at his feet are rough and perfect ashlar, and the rising sun is shining from the right side of the Medal. (Figure 5.) The reverse has within a wreath of palm leaves tied at base by a ribbon, the date of founding the Lodge, that of its semi-centennial festival, "together with the names of the Masters under whose direction these festivals were celebrated."

XXI. Medal struck in commemoration of the dedication of the New Masonic Temple, in Boston, 1867. Obverse, A view of the Temple, showing both the front and side, and adjoining buildings. On the curb stone, in very small letters, W. N. WARDEN. Above, MASONIC TEMPLE. Below, BOSTON. Reverse, NEW MASONIC TEMPLE in a curved line above the All-seeing eye; below the eye, DEDICATED JUNE 24. A. L. 5867 CHAS. C. DAME in three lines; below a square and compasses, and GRAND MASTER in a curved line. This was not struck by authority of the Grand Lodge, but by private parties. White metal, and perhaps others. Size 19. Somewhat rare.

XXII. French Medal, probably used as a prize. Obverse, a square and compass; the head of the compass is a sun, from which issue rays; from the joint of the compass a gavel is suspended over "two right hands joined," the square and compass surround them, and sprigs of acacia issue from behind. Legend, LABORIS ASSIDUI PROEMIUM. A date, 1842, at bottom. Reverse, L.: DE LA PARFAITE UNION ET ST JEAN DU DESERT REUNIS around a wreath of palm and olive branches, above which in a circular line is O.: DE VALENCIENNES, and within which is FONDEE LE 1^{er} JUILLET 1735 in four lines, the first curving. Brass, gilt, decahedral, size 14, between opposite sides.

XXIII. Medal struck in 1791 by the "Thriving Lodge of the Three Keys," of Ratisbon, in honor of its twenty-fifth anniversary. This Lodge was founded by the Lodge "St. Charles de la Constancie," May 1, 1767, and received its charter from the Grand Lodge in the Hague, July 1 of the following year. In the first quarter-century of its existence, it supplied constitutions for a large number of Lodges in Vienna, Munich, Dresden, and elsewhere, thus deserving the epithet Wachsenden (waxing or thriving). The Medal has on the obverse a wall of freestone adorned with the arms of the city of Regensburg, (Ratisbon,) the three crossed keys, which gave the Lodge its name; on the wall rests a cubic stone, or "perfect ashlar," with the letters XXV on its face; above it, G on a blazing star of five points. Legend, IUBEL DER WACHSENDEN  IN REGENSBURG (Jubilee of the Thriving Lodge in Ratisbon). (Figure 6.) Reverse, Hercules slaying a four-headed hydra. Legend, DIE TUGEND SIEGT (Virtue triumphs). In exergue, 5791.

XXIV. A Medal commemorative of the quarter-centennial of the Grand

Mastership of Prince William Frederick of the Netherlands, was struck October 16, 1841, by the Lodge of that name, at Amsterdam. Its obverse has a portrait of the Prince, with the inscription, WILL FREDERIK KAREL. PRINS DER NEDERLANDEN. The Reverse, [Figure 7.] has the ribbon and jewel of a Grand Master, hanging from a blazing star of five points inscribed with the letter G. Around the ribbon is an inscription, which is translated, "Twenty-five years National Grand Master of Freemasons of the Netherlands and her Colonies;" and within the ribbon, HEM BESTRALE STEEDS HET LICHT UIT DEN HOOGHE, which is omitted from the cut.

XXV. Medal struck for Maryland Commandery, Baltimore, in commemoration of the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States in Baltimore, September, 1871. The form was an equilateral triangle, the sides measuring two and one fourth inches. Obverse, a raised circle, the upper half having the word MARYLAND and the lower COMMANDERY N° 1. A gilded passion cross passes under the lower half of the circle, the lower bar extended nearly to the bottom of the triangle; the transverse arms slightly overlap its inside edge, and the centre of the bars of the cross rests upon the centre of the circle. In the upper corners of the triangle, 1790 in the left, and 1871 in the right. It was worn suspended from a white ribbon by a small double triangle, interlaced by the opposite points. The lower triangle is attached at its base by three small balls to the Medal. Edges beveled. Reverse, plain. Silver (oxydized). The dies for this Medal were made, it is said, in Paris.

XXVI. Medal struck in honor of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in 1858. Obverse, the arms of that Grand Lodge on a shield, which may be described:—Per pale; dexter, per fess, the upper part gules, a chevron between three castles, argent, on the chevron a pair of compasses extended;* the lower part gules, a beaver proper: sinister, a cross voided argent, (the color of the cross probably vert, but not indicated,) the field beneath the cross quarterly azure and or, 1. a lion rampant; 2. an ox passant; 3. a man with arms uplifted; 4. an eagle displayed.† The dexter side of the shield is formed by ears of wheat, and the sinister by an olive branch. Below on a ribbon the motto AUDI VIDE TACE. Crest, the ark of the covenant, over which two cherubs are bending. Supporters, two cherubim, each having one wing extended over the shield and crest. Between their wings, and above the ark, are Hebrew characters. Around, GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA. Reverse, within a wreath of maple and laurel leaves, TO COMMEMORATE THE ~~UNION~~ CONSUMMATED 14TH JULY 1858 in six lines, the second and last two curving. The dies are very poor, that of the reverse particularly so. Silver, silver gilt and white metal. Size 26.

XXVII. Medal struck May 21, 1825, by the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, in honor of the marriage of their Grand Master, Prince Frederic to the Princess Louisa Augusta of Prussia. Obverse, Latomia, (the Genius of Masonry,) standing upon a platform of three steps; on her right a column with the letter J on its base, and at its foot, a bunch of acacia; on her left

* Arms of the so-called "Modern" Masons; that is, the "Grand Lodge of England," previous to their union with the Grand Lodge of "Ancient" or "Athol" Masons, as mentioned in the next note.

† Arms of the Lodge of "Ancient" Masons, previous to their uniting with the "Modern" Masons, to form the "United Grand Lodge of England." We describe these arms as they appear on the Medal. The "cross voided" is probably a poor drawing of four Masons' squares, so arranged as to form a cross. If this be an error in drawing, as we believe, it is a very common one in emblazoning these arms.

a column, with the letter B; at its foot a rose bush. Masonic implements are scattered between. The figure wears a diadem, and rays of light issue from her head. Her right hand uplifted holds a sprig of acacia, her left places a wreath of roses upon two oval shields, one inscribed F. the other L. "which are supported by the altar of Love, behind her." Around her neck is a collar, from which are suspended the square and compasses. Above her in the quadrate cypher, ORNAT ET AUGET. In exergue, not seen in the engraving, Braemt. Reverse, in a radiant triangle, the letter G. Legend, in the same cypher, IN MEMORIAM AUGUSTISSIMARUM NUPTIARUM FRATRUM LIBERE AC FIDELIS SILENTII LEGE OPERANTIUM FLORENTISSIMA IN BELGIO SOCIETAS. The cypher begins to read from beneath the long central ray, falling from the base of the triangle. [Figure 8.] Bronze. Size 29.* It is said only four hundred were struck.

NOTE. — In describing the Boettiger Medal, (III, p. 74, Vol. X,) I was misled by following the translation of Zacharias, to which credit was given. An impression of the Medal, now in my possession, enables me to correct that description as follows:—For SEPTUAGESIMUS, read SEPTUAGENARIUS. On the bust, in very small letters, is KRUEGER. The bust faces observer's left. The dies are very fine. Copper, Size 25.

W. T. R. M.

COINS UNDER FOUNDATION STONES—BLACK MONEY.

THE following reference to the ancient custom of placing coins under Foundation Stones, and the account of the origin of the "Black money" of Malta, is condensed from Seddall's description of laying the corner stone of Valletta, in his "Malta: Past and Present."

The 28th of March, 1566, was named as the day on which the first stone of the city was to be laid. At eight o'clock in the morning, La Vallette left the Borgo, preceded by the Knights of St. John in solemn procession, and the ecclesiastical dignitaries of the island. When the procession landed at Mount Sceberras, the guns of Fort St. Elmo, which less than a year before had made such havoc amongst the Turks, poured forth a triumphant volley. Under a rich canopy stood an altar, at which high mass was said; and after this, an Augustinian monk preached an eloquent discourse. After the sermon, the vice-prior pronounced the benediction. Then several gold and silver Medals, bearing on one side the effigy of the Grand Master, and on the other appropriate inscriptions, were placed beneath the stone before it was lowered into its place. On some of the Medals were inscribed the words: IMOTAM COLI DEDIT. On others, MELITA RENASCENS. On some David was represented slaying Goliath, the inscription on these being UNUS DECEN MILLIA. Then, having been formally tapped with a mallet and carefully examined with a square, and pronounced duly laid, a loud shout burst from the assembled crowd, and "Long live the great La Vallette!" was heard from thousands of voices, and was repeated with greater and ever-increasing energy until the acclamations of the multitude reached the soldiers at Fort St. Elmo, who reloaded their guns, and again rent the air with a martial salute in honor of their brave chief, and in token of joy at the anticipated glory of their new city. On the foundation-stone was engraved an inscription which mentioned the fact that La Vallette had placed beneath it several gold and silver coins.

* Prof. Anthon exhibited this Medal at the June (1875) Meeting of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, New York. See *Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. X, p. 69.

Every Saturday the workmen on this new city were paid in what was called "black money." This consisted of brass and copper coins, which had been manufactured to meet the necessity of the case, bearing on one side the arms of the Grand Master and of the Order, and on the other side the inscription, *NON ÆS SED FIDES*. Each of these coins possessed a current value, and was held as a promissory note would be — payable on demand as soon as ever the exchequer of the Order should be replenished; and to the credit of La Vallette be it said, that as remittances arrived in the island from the continent, this spurious currency was gradually withdrawn, so that throughout the whole progress of the work public confidence was not for one moment shaken.

MEDAL OF ATTLA, KING OF THE HUNS.

ATTILA REX. Bust to right, with two horns on his head, short, curly hair, and goatish face. *Reverse,* The ruins of a city; above, *AQVILEIA*.

This Medal is the work of an Italian artist of the fifteenth century, (Rudolf'schen Muenz-Sammlung, No. 4027.) From the descriptions given of Attila by ignorant and prejudiced historians, it is no wonder that he is represented with horns. In a work published in 1679, the author states that the portrait on this Medal agrees exactly with the description given by Jornandes. But Jornandes wrote two centuries after the death of Attila, and obtained his information from the works of Priscus, a Byzantine historian who was one of the ambassadors sent by Theodosius to Attila, A. D. 445. He wrote an account of the embassy in eight books, but only fragments have been preserved. An examination of the works of both shows that their descriptions gave not the slightest ground for such a portrait. Jornandes says:—"He was a short, thick-set man, of a stately gait, with a large head, small eyes, thin, hard, scattered gray hair, a broad nose, and the complexion of the Huns." The Gothic fable of the origin of the Huns may, perhaps, have caused the artist to represent Attila with horns. Jornandes says that Filimer, king of the Goths, after his arrival in Scythia, drove from his people into the forests all the witches, and that from them and the forest devils, were descended a wild, barbarous race, the Huns.

As Fauns and Satyrs are pictured with horns and goats' feet, so, I suppose, they thought that Attila, whose ancestors were forest devils, must necessarily have horns, too. Although undoubtedly wild and barbarous enough, yet Attila might put many a Christian King to shame. Kohler even thinks that if he had been a Catholic, he would have been made a saint and represented with a halo around his head, instead of with horns. Priscus can hardly sufficiently praise the order of his camp and court; how attentively he listened to the poets singing their songs of heroes, and how temperate he was in eating and drinking. He used only a wooden cup, while gold and silver vessels were placed before his guests; he dressed plainly, and rode an unadorned horse, while his soldiers often covered theirs with gold and precious stones. The city of Aquileia checked his march into Italy, A. D. 452. It was so bravely defended that he was about to withdraw his army, when they noticed that the storks flew out of the city, and accepting this as a favorable omen, he attacked it again and destroyed it.

E. W. H.

COIN DEALING WITH THE ARABS.

THOSE of our readers who remember Dr. Rob. Morris's amusing account of his experiences in buying "Antiques" of the Arabs, (printed in the *Journal*, Vol. VII. p. 33,) will recognize their similarity to those of a correspondent of the *New York Evening Post*, which we give below:—

It is in amusing inconsistency with these Oriental customs of buying and selling that one sometimes meets with an ingenious method by which the trader who makes his successive abatements, saves at the same time his pride. A friend who was in search of antique coins, scarabæi and the like, found in the possession of a shrewd Moslem a collection from which about half a dozen articles of different value were selected. The price demanded for them was twelve pounds sterling, and the sum offered was exactly half that amount. Then ensued a scene in which wrangling, shuffling—everything, in fact, short of downright blows—formed a part. We were accompanied by a friend of the dealer's, who acted as interpreter, and who incontinently seized the desired articles, and laying down six sovereigns started to walk off with them. At once the dealer closed with him, and the two wrestled for their possession with a vehemence of speech and gesture which threatened a more violent contention. It was all purely dramatic. Suddenly the dealer ceased his struggles, placed a certain number of the coins and scarabæi in the hand of our attendant, and said, "These for six pounds;" and then, pausing a moment, added with a reproachful air, as he surrendered the rest, "These a present."

COUNTERFEIT ANTIQUES.

THE Paris *Journal Officiel*, in cautioning amateurs against the indiscriminate purchase of relics, says that in the East, principally in Egypt and Syria, the traffic in antiquities, such as statuettes in bronze and stone of heathen divinities, arms, vases made of pottery or glass, sarcophaguses, medals, &c., has of late assumed great extension. The *Monatsschrift für den Orient*, a monthly journal of the Oriental Museum, established at Vienna, states that in order to supply unscrupulous dealers, these manufacturers have not hesitated to construct *ateliers* for the making of such objects. Pottery, vases, statuettes of Egyptian and Phœnician gods, monumental stones, with Hebrew, Samaritan, Arabian, Greek, and all kinds of ancient inscriptions, medals with Hebrew characters, &c., have been imitated to a wonderful exactness.

A LIGHT-WEIGHT SILVER COIN.

It appears from a report of a special agent of the Treasury that the trade dollars coined at the Carson Mint do not contain the amount of silver prescribed by law. The discrepancy is said to vary from a half to two cents on all the recent coinage. This most unexpected revelation explains some things in connection with the silver problem which were very puzzling. We now know why these coins are not as readily received in China as they were when they were first emitted. The Chinese are very expert in all matters relating to coins. They acquire a deftness of hand which is as sure as the most deli-

cate scales. There are Chinese accountants who can detect, in the mere process of counting, any coin that is under weight, to an almost incredible fraction. As soon, therefore, as the trade dollars were discovered to be in a sense a fraud, the market for them was reduced. The falling off in the demand contributed to the glut of silver, which has already caused some monetary derangements in this city.

The excuse that is offered for this most outrageous and disgraceful transaction is that the workmen at the Carson Mint were not as skillful as they ought to be, and hence the variation in the intrinsic value of the coins. If they do work in that slovenly way at the Carson Mint, the sooner that institution is shut up the better it will be for the country and the commerce of the coast. The attempt to throw the blame on the unskillfulness of the operator in this case is surpassingly audacious. The fact is, somebody has been making \$20,000 on every million of these coins struck. That, we apprehend, will be found the frozen truth of the matter. It is, to be sure, a comparatively small theft, but our reputation in the East will suffer for it for a long time. The derangement in business which it has contributed to produce in this city is known to all. But probably nothing better was to be expected from the foolish system or want of system which permitted the coining of trade dollars on private account. In the nature of things there could be no check upon such operations. If the government got its one and a quarter per centum on all coined, its interests were protected, but its reputation was put in peril. If the coins were struck for the government in the usual way, the bullion fund would at once have exhibited the cheat.—*San Francisco Bulletin*, March 30.

THE SEVEN SACRED METALS.

A WRITER in *Once a Week*, an English periodical, recently published an article under the above title, which, with the exception of erroneously ascribing the metal gold to Jupiter, has some interesting and curious facts. We print below a portion of the article, to which we have made some additions and corrections, to render it more complete, and think our readers will be interested in it.—EDS.

In the discovery of the metals men first asserted their mastery over nature; yet the discovery is still progressing. Before the fifteenth century only seven were positively known. They were each held sacred, among the ancients, to some ruling deity. Gold—indestructible, malleable, the richest in coloring, the most precious of decorations—was consecrated, from its brilliancy, to Apollo, or the sun, and had already assumed the supremacy which it has never since lost.

Silver ranked next to gold, and was named, it is said, from the soft light of the moon. It was consecrated to Diana, or Luna, the sister of Apollo, and to this Shakespeare alludes when he speaks of

“Celestial Dian, goddess argentine:”

Argentum, as is well known, being the Latin name of the metal. It adorned the helmets and shields of warriors, and formed the costly mirrors with which the Roman ladies shocked the austerity of Lactantius or Jerome. It was

Demetrius, the *silver* smith, who made silver shrines for Diana at Ephesus, (see Acts xix. 24.) that stirred up the "workmen of like occupation" in a riot against St. Paul, for preaching against his patron goddess.

Five other metals were employed by the ancients for various purposes: iron, which from its use in warfare they consecrated to Mars, who delighted in battles; copper, to Venus, the beautiful golden-haired goddess of love; tin, to Jupiter; lead, to the cold-blooded Saturn, the father of the gods, and quick-silver to Mercury, their swift-winged messenger. The old alchemists, in speaking of these metals, mystified the common people by using the mythologic names. The ancients also made steel by a rude process, and brass without discovering zinc.

For many ages no addition was made to the sacred seven — the perfect number. Three thousand years passed before it was suspected that the number could be increased — a memorable example of the slowness of human apprehension. At length, in 1490, antimony was added to the metallic family; and not far off from the period of the discovery of a new world, the chemists were about to enter upon fresh fields of science, scarcely less boundless or inviting.

A second metal, bismuth, came in almost with the Reformation. Zinc, perhaps the most important of the new family, may have preceded the others; it was certainly described long before. It is, indeed, quite curious to notice how the bright metal has been constantly forcing itself upon the attention of careful observers, and had yet been wholly overlooked, had been used by the ancients, in the form of an earth, to color copper into brass, and give it a shining surface like gold; it was seen dropping from the furnaces of the middle ages, or melted in rich flakes from their walls. Two magicians or philosophers, at last detected the error of ages; and Albertus Magnus and Paracelsus probably both discovered that zinc was as indestructible and as free from foreign substances as gold. It seemed a pure element. Paracelsus, who was fond of penetrating to the source of things, admits that he could not tell how the bright metal grew; nor in the height of their magic renown was it ever foreseen that the rare substance the sorcerers had discovered would one day shed knowledge, in tongues of fire, from London to Japan. Two centuries followed, during which no metallic substance was discovered. Paracelsus found no successor; Albertus, almost the first man of science in Europe, was remembered only as a sorcerer. It was not until 1733 that the vast field of metallic discovery began to open upon man. Two valuable and well-known metals—platinum and nickel among several others, — first appeared about the middle of the eighteenth century. The number of the metals now rapidly enlarged; galvanism lent its aid to dissolve the hardest earths; and at length, in the opening of the nineteenth century, a cluster of brilliant discoveries aroused the curiosity of science.

Each eminent philosopher seemed to produce new metals. Berzelius discovered three; Davy, the Paracelsus of his age, is the scientific parent of five—potassium, sodium, barium, strontium, calcium. The numbers advanced, until already more than fifty metals, of various importance, have been given to the arts. The new experiments in light have added *cæsium*, *rubidium*, and *indium*; and no limit can now be fixed for the metallic family, which for so many ages embraced only seven members, the emblems of the ruling gods.

WHAT IS A GUINEA?

THIS coin was first heard of in England during the Commonwealth, when, in 1669, some correspondence took place between the Parliament and the Council of State concerning the coinage of gold brought by a vessel from "Guiny," but the name was not given to the coin until the Restoration. It was intended to circulate as a twenty-shilling piece, but from an error in calculating gold and silver values, it never circulated for that sum. Sir Isaac Newton fixed the value of the coin, in relation to silver, at twenty shillings and eight pence, and by his advice the government proclaimed its value at twenty-one shillings. A specimen of this coin is now rarely seen, it having run out or been withdrawn from circulation years ago. The term has, however, been kept up, and no one who pretends to gentility in England would think of subscribing to any charity or a fashionable object by contributing the vulgar pound. An extra shilling added to the pound makes the guinea, and lifts the name of the subscriber at once into the aristocratic world.—*Exchange*.

ISSUES OF THE U. S. MINT AT NEW ORLEANS.

This list of issues of the branch Mint at New Orleans was prepared with great care and trouble by Mr. Wm. E. Du Bois of the Mint at Philadelphia, and has been revised by him and by myself. It may not be absolutely perfect, but is thought to be very nearly so. If omissions are found, I hope to be informed of them. I believe the same facts cannot be read elsewhere.

W. S. APPLETON.

Dollars were coined in 1846, 50, 59, ~~60~~, 61.

Half-dollars were coined in every year 1839-61.

Quarters were coined in 1840, 41, 42, 43, 44, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

Dimes were coined in 1838, 39, 40, 41, 42, ~~43~~, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

Half-dimes were coined in 1838, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

Three-cent pieces were coined in 1851 only.

A SILVER QUARTER WITH A HISTORY.

FIFTEEN years ago, Mr. Louis German lost a silver twenty-five cent piece, upon one side of which he had engraved his name and place of business. The piece was bright and new when he engraved it, and he wore it as a charm on his watch chain. As the trinket was of small value, it was of course forgotten soon after its loss, and Mr. German never expected to see it again. A few days ago an Indiana farmer drove into New Albany to purchase goods, and in the money paid for them was the identical piece of coin bearing Mr. German's name. The gentleman (a New Albany merchant) who received the money, came over to Louisville and returned it to the owner. The piece bore upon its surface the appearance of having been in constant use. As there has been no specie circulation during the last fifteen years, the finder of the quarter adopted it as an ornament for his guard or chain.—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

BRONZE AND NICKEL PIECES.

THE nickel cent is no longer coined, and the two-cent bronze piece, which was very convenient, was abolished in the Act of 1873. The fact that large quantities of two-cent bronze are in circulation misleads many business men. They may be sent to the Mint at Philadelphia for redemption, but when they are so sent, they go to the melting-pot. The bronze one-cent piece is also subject to redemption at the Mint, but unless mutilated or otherwise unfit for circulation, it is cleansed and reissued. The same is the case when nickel coin of the denominations of three and five cents are forwarded for redemption. If in good condition they are cleansed, overlooked and reissued. The one-cent nickel goes to the melting-pot when sent for redemption. It proved too clumsy.

COUNTERFEIT NICKELS.

A COUNTERFEIT five-cent piece is in circulation in New York and probably elsewhere, which is worthless only because not made at the Government Mint. Some of the counterfeits were recently sent to the Superintendent of the Mint in Philadelphia by the Treasurer for the purpose of making inquiries and to test their value. The Superintendent says the counterfeits have been assayed and found to contain copper and nickel in the legal proportion, that the coins are of proper weight, size, and finish, and just as valuable as good coin. The execution of the work is poorly done. The circle beneath the cross in the genuine is well defined, in the counterfeit it is indistinct and touches the scroll work. The cross is entirely out of line, and the words, "In God we trust," are very irregular. The dates are nearly all 1875, a few are 1874. It is noticed that most of the coins are received from the west side of the city of New York, giving the impression that the factory is in that neighborhood or in New Jersey. Many come through the car conductors, and a number from the ferries.

SCOTCH HALFPENNY OF ROBERT II.

THE *Dundee Advertiser* describes the only piece of royal money once coined there now believed to be in existence. It is a silver halfpenny of the time of King Robert II., the size of a herring scale, and weighing seven grains. On one side is the portrait in profile of the king holding a sceptre in front, with the inscription "Robertus Rex," and the words "Villa Dundei."

THE BRITISH BRONZE COINAGE.

THE mint mark "H," on the reverse of the pennies and halfpennies of 1874, under the date, indicates that the coin was made by Heaton & Sons, of Birmingham, the Mint not being able to supply the demand. One hundred tons were made by them during the year.

BURIED TREASURE.

WHILE some men were engaged lately in taking up an old stone fence on a farm near Greenwich, Conn., they came upon a tin box, two feet beneath the surface of the ground and under a stone which required several men to roll away. In the box were about ten dollars in silver coins, some of them dating back more than one hundred years.

In tearing down a portion of an old residence in Hartland, Conn., belonging to Mr. Dwight Beman, a well-preserved silver-piece was found, which on examination proved to be a French crown of Louis the Fifteenth, bearing the date 1748. It is doubtless a relic of the old French wars brought back from Canada by a Connecticut soldier.

A bronze amphora, of elegant model, containing two thousand Roman coins in brass, copper and silver, has recently been found in the commune of Thonon, near the village of Tully (Correze). Of various types, they belong to the emperors Gordian, the younger; Philip; Gallienus; Posthumus, one of the thirty tyrants; Claudius II.; and the empress Salonina. By far the most numerous are those of the third and fourth named. Their dates vary from 238 to 258 A. D. Consequently, this treasure appears to have been buried towards the end of the third century.

A gold coin of the reign of Nero, about the weight of two-thirds of a sovereign, in a most excellent state of preservation, has been picked up at Pakefield, near Lowestoft, England, having been unearthed by the action of the sea upon the crumbling cliff.

While a farmer's daughter was attending sheep at Glenquaich, in the Perthshire Highlands, she found on a rocky shelf a vase, nearly concealed by moss and fern, containing several hundred coins—some silver, but chiefly copper. On many coins the date 1670 was distinctly visible, and the inscriptions Charles I. and William and Mary were clearly traceable. They were in fine preservation, and had probably lain in their place of concealment nearly two hundred years. The vase was of earthenware. The bowl had crumbled to pieces, but the neck remained intact.

A MEDALLION OF ANTONINUS PIUS.

ÆNEAS and Ascanius, landing from a galley at anchor in a river: in the foreground, under a tree, a sow and her brood; above, the walls of a town. This beautiful medallion illustrates a well known passage in Virgil, (*Æn. Lib. viii.*) in which the poet relates the dream of his hero; thus rendered by Dryden:—

“ And that this nightly vision may not seem
The effect of fancy, or an idle dream,
A sow beneath an oak shall lie along,
All white herself, and white her thirty young.
When thirty rolling years have run their race,
Thy son Ascanius, on this empty space,
Shall build a royal town of lasting fame,
Which from this omen shall receive the name.”

Akerman on Coins.

CENTENNIAL MEDALS.

[Continued from Vol. X., page 62.]

XXXVI. *Ob.* Same as No. XXXII. *Rev.* Same also, except that the monument has lines indicating the stone work, and the inscription is A MONUMENT * CORNER STONE LAID 1848 — COMPLETED — ? — 1876 * on a raised and roughened border. Size 25. Silver, only one struck, and white metal, a few only. Lovett.

XXXVII. *Ob.* Same as No. XXXIII. *Rev.* JOHN HANCOCK, fac-simile of his signature : above, WORDS SPOKEN BY JOHN HANCOCK, AFTER SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE in two curves, over thirteen stars in a curve : below, THERE! JOHN BULL CAN READ THAT NAME WITHOUT SPECTACLES, NOW LET HIM DOUBLE HIS REWARD. White metal, size 26.

XXXVIII. *Ob.* Large naked bust of Washington to R. GEORGE WASHINGTON 1876. *Rev.* Independence Hall and outbuildings : above BIRTH PLACE OF AMERICAN and below INDEPENDENCE 1776. Silver, copper, gilt, and white metal. Size 24.

XXXIX. *Ob.* Same. *Rev.* A female resembling one of the trade dollar patterns, seated facing L. and holding in her right hand an olive-branch and having her left on what is perhaps a shield emblazoned with a pair of scales and a square. Before her is the sea and a ship, and behind her flags and the land with a plough and railroad train. Above FREE AND UNITED STATES and below 1876. Silver, copper, gilt, and white metal. Size 24.

XL. *Ob.* Same. *Rev.* Fountain, above CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN and below FAIRMOUNT PARK DEDICATED TO AMERICAN LIBERTY JULY 4. 1876 PHILA. in five lines, the last curved. Gilt. Size 24.

XLI. *Ob.* Same as rev. of No. XXXIX. *Rev.* Same as rev. of No. XXXVIII. Silver, copper, gilt, and white metal. Size 24.

XLII. *Ob.* Same. *Rev.* Officer, soldier with gun, and cannon, balls, drum, and liberty cap on pole ; and behind a farmer with axe, and a mill. Above, an eye surrounded by thirteen stars and rays, and AMERICAN COLONIES. Below, 1776. Silver, copper, gilt, and white metal. Size 24.

XLIII. *Ob.* Same as rev. of No. XL. *Rev.* A shield with a cross and lilies and C T A U O F A In a circle around, ERECTED BY THE CATHOLIC TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION OF AMERICA * Silver, copper, gilt, and white metal. Size 24.

XLIV. *Ob.* Naked bust of Washington to R. surrounded by thirty-four stars in a circle, and outside, THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE 1876. *Rev.* A wreath of oak leaves and within in a circle BATTLE OF MOORES CREEK BRIDGE NO. CAROLINA ; within in a curve FEBRUARY 27 and in the centre of a beaded circle and rays 1876 ; below 1. Silver, bronze, and white metal. Size 21.

XLV. Same, except that the inscription on rev. is BATTLE OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND SO. CAROLINA JUNE 28 1776 2.

XLVI. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND NEW YORK AUGUST 27 1776 3

XLVII. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF HARLEM PLAINS NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 16 1776 4

XLVIII. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN, NEW YORK OCTOBER 11 & 12 1776 5

XLIX. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK OCTOBER 28 1776 6

L. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON
NEW YORK NOVEMBER 16 1776 7

LI. Same, except that the inscription is BATTLE OF TRENTON NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 26 1776 8

LII. *Ob.* Bust of Washington to L., clothed in uniform. Outside a raised roughened border with the inner edge beaded, inscribed, TO AID 'ST. JOHN'S-GUILD—' FLOATING-HOSPITAL (WOOD'S SERIES "C" NO. 5). *Rev.* Bust of Martha Washington to L. In two circles CENTENNIAL RECEPTION, BALL, & TEA-PARTY FEB 22ND 1876 ACADEMY OF MUSIC, * N. Y. * This medal was intended for sale at the reception, &c., for the benefit of the Hospital, but was delayed. Fifteen only were struck, four being in white metal and the others in silver, before the obverseside broke. Size 18.

LIII. *Ob.* Naked bust of Washington to R. surrounded by thirteen stars in a circle, and outside in a circle TO AID 'ST. JOHN'S-GUILD—' FLOATING-HOSPITAL WOOD'S SERIES C NO. 5 G. H. L. *Rev.* Same as last. Silver, 50 struck, copper, and white metal. Size 18.

LIV. *Ob.* Gold pine tree on blue enameled field. Outside in gold letters on a raised, white enameled, gold edged border, SAIL ON O UNION STRONG AND GREAT. 1876. *Rev.* A mail-clad arm brandishing sabre, gold on white field. Outside in gold letters on red, ground gold edged, ENSE PETIT PLACIDAM SUB LIBERTATE QUIETEM. Oval; size 11 by 15 with loop. Gotten up by the Woman's Centennial Committee of Boston.

LV. *Ob.* Pine tree, MASSACHUSETTS. over it. *Rev.* Monogram U. S. with 1776 above, 1876 below, and around all "SAIL ON O UNION STRONG AND GREAT" * Oval, size 12 by 16. Gold, eighteen struck, silver, two hundred struck. Gotten up by same committee.

LVI. *Ob.* Woman seated holding distaff. Around in a circle SHE SEEKETH WOOL AND FLAX AND WORKETH WILLINGLY WITH HER HANDS. 1776. *Rev.* Monogram W C A and outside a double ring in a circle ART IS THE HAND-MAID OF HUMAN GOOD. LOWELL, 1876. Gold, ten struck, silver, four hundred struck, white metal, four hundred struck. Size 15.

LVII. *Ob.* Bust of Washington, clothed, to R. in wreath of oak and palm crossed and tied at the bottom. Outside in curves 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE * JULY 4, 1876 * *Rev.* 1876, wreath of oak and tobacco enclosing DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA in five lines, the upper and lower curved. White metal. Size 21.

LVIII. *Ob.* Bust of Martha Washington, facing, 1876 below. *Rev.* IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN OF THE 1776 REVOLUTION and thirteen stars. White metal. Size 12.

LIX. *Ob.* Small clothed bust of Washington to R. *Rev.* Independence Hall, same as obverse of No. XXVIII. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11. These small medals are all by Key.

LX. *Ob.* Same as last. *Rev.* Differs slightly from last, the most marked peculiarity being thirteen stars around the outer field. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11.

LXI. *Ob.* Independence Hall, same as obverse of No. XXVIII. *Rev.* Small bell same as No. XXXI. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11.

LXII. *Ob.* Independence Hall, same as reverse of No. LX. *Rev.* Small bell same as No. XXXI. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11.

LXIII. *Ob.* Clothed bust of Washington, same as No. LIX. *Rev.* Large bell same as No. XXVIII. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11.

LXIV. *Ob.* Clothed bust of Washington, same as No. LIX. *Rev.* Small bell same as No. XXXI. Silver, copper, and white metal. Size 11.

LXV. *Ob.* Independence Hall, front; above INDEPENDENCE HALL, and below 1776 1876. *Rev.* Cracked bell, above, LIBERTY BELL, and below 1776 1876. Copper. Size 12.

[To be continued.]

THE WINGATE SALE OF SCOTTISH COINS.

WE gave in the last number of the *Journal*, a brief list of some of the prices obtained at the Wingate Sale, which threw into the market Mr. Wingate's cabinet, which has been known for many years as having the most complete historical series illustrating the coinage of the Kingdom of Scotland from the earliest times. It consisted of several hundred examples, many of which are of unique interest, some being the only known of the particular mintage. The series of Alexander II. and III. was considered quite exhaustive in its completeness. That of the reign of Mary (Queen of Scots) was an exceedingly fine one, and contained the only very fine and perfect piece known of the testoon of her reign, a silver piece with a good bust of the Queen crowned, showing her hair to have been long and richly braided, with pearls and jewels. This sold for the large price of 61*l.* to Mr. Addington. A lion gold piece of her reign, bearing on the obverse Scottish arms crowned between two cinquefoils, with legend, "Maria D. G. Scotorvm Regina," absolutely unique, sold for 105*l.* to Mr. Addington. The gold coinage of James VI. was especially well illustrated by numerous choice specimens, of which two are of the highest rarity—a 2-3*d* lion, gold, of 1587, and a 1-3*d* of the same coin of 1584, selling for the unprecedented price of 201*l.* and 205*l.* to Mr. Addington. These are two pieces which are not to be seen in the collection of the British Museum, although that is already a very comprehensive one.

We now give, in addition to those previously published, the most important lots in the sale, with the prices and names of the purchasers. Early Scottish sixpennies, attributed to Alexander I. and David I. (1124-1158,) 10*l.* 10*s.*—Mr. Gray; a penny of David I., struck at Roxburgh, 10*l.*—ditto; a penny of Prince Henry of Northumberland, 26*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; penny of William the Lion (1165-1214), 10*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; penny of Alexander II., 10*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; an Inverness penny of Alexander III., only one other known, 21*l.*—ditto; a farthing of the same reign, 20*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; penny of John Balliol (1292,) 9*l.*—ditto; halfpenny of Robert Bruce, 9*l.*—Mr. Addington; halfpenny of David II., 35*l.*—ditto; groat and half-groat of Robert II., (1371-1390,) 30*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; halfpenny of Robert III., Perth mint, on reverse "Villa de Perth," exceedingly rare, 26*l.*—ditto; a variety of the half St. Andrew gold, equally rare, 31*l.*—Mr. Gray; St. Andrew of James I., (1406-1437,) gold, 28*l.*—Mr. Addington; a half St. Andrew, 26*l.*—Mr. Gray. These coins take this name either from having the cross of the saint or the figure of the saint crucified. A groat of Stirling mint, 21*l.* 10*s.*—ditto; a St. Andrew, silver, very rare, 30*l.*—ditto; a half St. Andrew as figured by Lindsay, Plate 12, No. 20, equally rare, 50*l.*; a half-groat, James IV., 30*l.*—Mr. Gray; groat, sixth coinage, full-faced bearded portrait, 61*l.*—Mr. Addington; a unicorn, gold, same reign, 47*l.*—ditto; a half ditto, without the numeral IV., 12*l.*—Mr. Gray. These unicorns bore the figure of the fabulous animal wearing a crown round the neck and holding at his breast the shield, with a lion. A two-third St. Andrew, gold, 49*l.*—Mr. Addington; a one-third rider, gold, James IV., extremely rare, 26*l.*—Mr. Gray; a one-third bonnet-piece, same reign, 41*l.*—Mr. Addington. Of this curious coin there were several others; they get this name from the effigy of the King wearing the singular kind of hat covered with silk or velvet pleated; a half-testoon or jetton of Mary, silver, 15*l.* 5*s.*—ditto; a testoon of 1553, 61*l.*—ditto; a half-testoon, 1562, 25*l.*—ditto; a lion, gold, 105*l.*—ditto; a half-ryal, 1555, 24*l.*—ditto; a ryal, 1558, 13*l.* 10*s.*—Mr. Gray; a thistle dollar of James VI., 21*l.* 10*s.*—Mr. Addington; a half thistle dollar, 36*l.*—ditto; a quarter ditto, 36*l.*—ditto; a forty-shilling piece, in splendid condition, 85*l.*—ditto; a twenty-pound piece, James VI., 35*l.*—Mr. Addington; a noble, gold, same reign, 30*l.*—Mr. Addington; a two-thirds lion, 1587, 201*l.*; a one-third lion, 205*l.*; a hat piece, 1592, gold, 35*l.*—ditto; a half unit, after the accession, 30*l.*—ditto; a half unit, gold, Charles I., first coinage, 11*l.* 5*s.*—Gray. The sale, including some specimens of Greek and Roman coins, with the coin cabinets, and a few books upon Numismatics, realized the sum of 3,263*l.* 14*s.*

RECENT NEW YORK SALES.

COLLECTION of Lewis White, sold by Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, April 17th and 18th. We give the prices brought for the most desirable pieces.

Dollars, 1794, g. \$49; do. fair, \$38; 1795, fillet head, g. \$5; 1796, fair, \$5; 1798, small eagle, \$5; 1799, fair, \$4.50; 1851, proof, \$26; 1852, proof, \$26; 1854, g. \$5; 1855, g. \$5; 1856, g. \$4. Half Dollars, 1796, fair, \$16; 1797, fair, \$11; 1802, g. \$3.50; 1806, uncir. \$2.25; 1836, milled, g. \$4. Quarter dollars, 1804, fair, \$3.75; 1815, g. \$2.38; 1823, poor, \$13.50; 1827, v. f. \$67.50. Dimes, 1800, f. \$5.50; 1804, f. \$10.50. Half dimes, 1794, v. f. \$5; 1796, g. \$2.55; 1803, g. \$4; 1805, v. f. \$6.25; proof set, 1858, \$11.50. Cents, 1793, wreath, fair, \$11.75; do. rev. fair, \$4.50; do. chain do. \$5.25; 1799, v. g. \$22; 1804, g. \$8.50; 1806, g. \$4.25; 1809, v. g. \$4.50; 1812, f. 4.50. Patterns, Half disme, uncir. \$19. Proof dollar, 1838, \$33; do. 1839, \$29. Nickel cent, 1856, f. \$2.40. Commonwealth Crown, f. \$9; half do. g. \$2.75. Medals, silver, Franklin Pierce, 1853, \$9; James Munroe, \$5; Washington Allston, \$8; Sumter, 1861, \$22; Peace of Westphalia, 1648, \$20; Charles III., 1778, \$10; "Suria" Medal, 1809, \$15; Ferdinand XII., 1808, \$6; Ferdinand VII., 1808, \$6.50; Augustin, 1822, \$6.50; do. 1823, \$6.50; St. Louis Potosi, 1823, \$5; Market Medal of City of Mexico, 1847, \$7.25; Charles and Maria Theresa, size 20, \$10.50. Colonial Pine tree shilling, g. \$6.50; do. fair, \$3.75; do. g. \$3.50; do. fair, \$3; Carolina, Elephant, 1694; fine, \$20.50. Mass. Half cent, 1788, uncir. \$4.25. Catalogued by Edward Cogan, 813 lots pp. 40.

A SALE of coins took place in New York, May 2d, 3d, and 4th, last, at Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s Rooms. It comprised American and foreign coins and medals, political pieces, store cards, tokens, &c., and many of the pieces were disposed of at extremely low prices. The catalogue (80 pages,) was prepared by George H. Farrier. We give a few of the prices obtained:

A half-cent of 1793, barely fair, \$1.62; do. 1797, fair, .60; cent of 1793, wreath, one hundred for a dollar on the edge, \$3.50; do. 1799, date very good, \$4.50; nickel do. 1856, \$2.15; pine tree shilling, 1652, large planchet, good, \$4.50; Rosa Americana halfpenny, 1723, poor, .80; Nova Eborac, 1787, barely fair, \$1.40; Massachusetts half-cent, 1787, \$2.25; Kentucky cent, fair, \$1.80; Talbot, Allum & Lee, 1794, fair, .30. Washington centennial, 1832, copper, in beautiful condition, .90; head of Washington, no inscription, and head of Grant, silver, size 13, \$1.38; thirty-four other Washingtons of various patterns, mostly bronze, a few in silver, sold for from 10 to 65 cents each; ten "Washington Headquarters," in copper proof, size 17, 40 to 50 cents each; a set of fifteen Lovett's residences of the Presidents, in copper, all fine, \$7.00; sixty-four politicals, &c., Lincoln, Douglas, Jackson, Fremont, and others, nearly all fine, and some rare, from 3 to 40 cents each, four at 50 to 55 cents, and one, a Brooklyn medal, "Honor to the Brave," 1863, at \$1.00; nearly one hundred foreign silver medals at about their value as old silver, many of them catalogued as fine and rare. An Indian medal of George III., "young head," rev. British arms, "obtained from an old Indian squaw at Lake Huron, Michigan; in good condition and very rare," \$13.50. Some foreign silver coins brought less than their current value. Gold coin of Honorius, and another of Valentinianus III., both exceedingly fine, at \$5.50 each; thirty-eight pieces of the "third brass" Probus, Licinius, Gallienus, &c., \$2.66 for the lot. U. S. dollars, 1796, fair, \$2; 1797, \$1.40; 1798, large eagle, \$1.10; small eagle, thirteen stars, \$2.60; a half-dollar of 1859, N. O. mint, almost uncirculated .51; dime of 1796, fair, .75; one of 1853 with arrows, .10; half-dime of 1795, unusually good, \$1.15; another, very fine, \$1.65; one of 1843, proof, .30; Proof sets, 1863, seven pieces, \$2.75; 1864, eight do. \$3.00; 1865, nine do. \$3.00; 1866 to 1871, ten do. averaged less than \$3.00; proof set of nine pieces, three 50 cent, three 25 cent, and three 10 cent, all different, standard silver patterns, struck as suggestions for circulation, being under the value of the ordinary silver, \$6.00.

The sale was in two parts. The prices we have given are from the first part; the pieces in the second part were sold at equally low rates, the highest price obtained in that part being for a cent of 1793, wreath, very sharp impression and but little circulated, \$6.00.

JOHNSTON SALE, ENGLAND.

A VERY valuable collection of coins and medals, the property of the late Mr. William Harrower Johnston, has been disposed of in London by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge. The sale lasted five days, terminating on Monday, May 8. Among the English coins, the one most fancied by the connoisseurs was the extremely rare *Reddite Crown* of Charles II., Simon's pattern, 1663; this fetched 32*l.*, and 17*l.* 5*s.* was given for the pattern crown, Charles II., dated 1662. A noble or rial of Elizabeth sold for 16*l.* 10*s.*; a milled half-crown of Elizabeth for 11*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; an "Exurgat" half-crown of James I. for 12*l.*; two Oxford pounds of Charles I., dated 1643, for 25*l.* and 17*l.* respectively, and one dated 1642 for 10*l.*; a pattern sovereign or broad of Charles I. for 13*l.* 5*s.*; a Commonwealth pattern shilling, by Ramage, 1651, for 18*l.*, and a pattern sixpence for 9*l.* 10*s.* Other remarkable English coins were these: Henry I., London Mint, 3*l.* 12*s.*; Eustace, as Governor of York, 7*l.*; Edward I., pattern groat, 8*l.* 5*s.*;

Richard II., half nobles, 8*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 8*l.*; Henry V., noble, 5*l.*; Henry VI., Bristol angel, 7*l.* 15*s.*; Edward IV., half rose noble, 3*l.* 12*s.*; Richard III., angels, 4*l.* 5*s.* and 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; Henry VIII., half angel, 3*l.* 7*s.*; Mary, sovereigns, 1553, 4*l.* 14*s.* and 4*l.* 4*s.*; Mary, angel, 3*l.* 13*s.*; a Philip and Mary shilling, 2*l.* 10*s.*; a Philip and Mary angel, 4*l.* 11*s.*; a Portcullis crown of Elizabeth, 4*l.* 14*s.*; a thirty-shilling piece of James I., 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; a noble or rial of James I., 8*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; a half angel of James I., 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; Charles I., Briot's pattern crown, 8*l.* 10*s.*; Charles I., Oxford three pound, 1642, 4*l.* 6*s.*, and ditto, 1644, 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; a Carlisle three-shilling piece, 1645, 7*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; a Carlisle shilling, 1645, 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; a Pontefract shilling, stamped *Carolus Secundus*, 1648, 3*l.* 5*s.*; Blondeau's pattern Commonwealth half-crown, 1651, 6*l.* 6*s.*, and pattern shilling, 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; Cromwell, crown, 1658, termed *Tanner's*, 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Cromwell, pattern half broad, 1658, 9*l.* 15*s.*; James II., five-guinea, 1687, 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; William III., proof crown, 1695, 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; Anne, pattern halfpenny, 4*l.* 12*s.*; George III., pattern five-guinea, 1770, by Tanner, 18*l.* 15*s.*; George III., pattern half-sovereign by Wyon, 1820, 7*l.*; pattern halfpenny by Droz, 1790, 6*l.* 10*s.*; Victoria, pattern five-pound, 1839, by Wyon, 9*l.* Among the few Scottish coins offered, two silver pennies of David I. sold for 4*l.*; a rider of James III., for 3*l.* 12*s.*; and a half-lion of Mary, dated 1553, for 5*l.* The early British coins included a Verica, which fetched 8*l.*; a Tasciovanus, 7*l.*; and a Cunobeline, 6*l.* The Anglo-Saxon coins included, Offa, King of Mercia, 9*l.* 12*s.* and 6*l.*; Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, 6*l.* 6*s.*; and Harthacnut, 11*l.* 15*s.* Three Anglo-Gallic coins, struck at Bordeaux, of Edward the Black Prince, fetched 10*l.*, 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 6*l.* respectively. Two Washington cents, 1792, 8*l.* 5*s.* and 10*l.* 5*s.* A Syracusan decadrachm, or medallion, 9*l.*, and a shekel of Judæa, of Simon the Maccabee, of the year 4, 4*l.* A double stater of Alexander III. of Macedonia, 8*l.*; an octodrachm of Ptolemy Soter and Berenice, 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; two of Ptolemy VIII., 10*l.* 15*s.* and 13*l.* respectively; and one of Arsinoe, 9*l.* 9*s.*; a medallion of Lucilla, 9*l.*; of Probus, 8*l.* 5*s.* Two gold Roman coins of Carausius, turned up by the plough in a field at Burton Hey, near Neston, Cheshire, weighing 68 grs. and 69 grs. respectively, sold for 22*l.* and 10*l.* 15*s.*

MEMORIAL MEDAL OF WASHINGTON.

MR. SNOWDEN, of the Mint, has struck off a Washington bronze Medal. It bears upon its face a splendidly executed bust of Washington, with the following inscription: "George Washington. Born February 22, 1732. Died December 14, 1799." Upon the reverse is a representation of the Washington cabinet at the Mint, and the following words: "Washington Cabinet of Medals, U. S. Mint. Inaugurated February 22, 1860." The Medal was executed and designed by Mr. A. C. Paquet, assistant-engraver at the Mint. The following correspondence will explain itself:

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

PHILADELPHIA, June 22, 1860.

DEAR SIR:—In view of your distinguished position as an artist, and the only one, now living, to whom the great Washington sat for his portrait, it has occurred to me to ask your acceptance of one of the Washington Memorial Medals, which I recently caused to be prepared and struck. I accordingly send one with this note. Hoping that it may be interesting to you to possess one of the memorials of the inauguration of the Washington collection of Medals, I am, with great respect, yours very truly,

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, *Director of the Mint.*

To REMBRANDT PEALE, ESQ., 1506 Vine Street.

PHILADELPHIA, June 23, 1860.

DEAR SIR:—In acknowledging the receipt of your polite note of yesterday, accompanied by the "Memorial Medal of Washington," I would express the peculiar pleasure your present affords me as a specimen of American art; gracefully designed, exquisitely finished, and the best medallic likeness of the great original which has come under my notice.

Respectfully yours,

REMBRANDT PEALE.

To Col. J. R. SNOWDEN, United States Mint.

From Historical Magazine of August, 1860.

TOKENS which appeal to the senses are requisite to the human mind, by which things of the past are united to the present time.

MEDAL OF WAGNER.

WE have received from C. G. Thieme, of Leipsic, a circular containing an engraving and description of a Medal, to be struck in honor of Wagner, the great German composer. The size is to be 70 millimeters, (about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches,) and they are to be furnished in white metal, at \$1.62, bronze, at \$2.00, and silver, \$12.00. Obverse, Bust of Wagner, to right; legend RICHARD WAGNER; under the bust in small letters, C. WIENER. The Reverse, from an original design, made expressly for this Medal, by Prof. Adolf Schmitz, of Duesseldorf, contains figures from Wagner's musical dramas. On the right, "The Flying Dutchman," an anchor near him, and the artist's name, Ch. Wiener, (of Brussels,) appears; next, Tannhauser, Lohengrin and his swan, Tristran, and Hans Sachs the Master Singer, with his harp, who is sitting on a bridge, on the arch of which is inscribed in small letters Bairevth, 1876. The field on the left of these figures is devoted to the Nibelungen Trilogy, from the three Rhine-gold maidens, who are sporting in the waves, to Siegfried, Brunhild, and the god Woden.

"The new birth of the German nation," says the circular of Herr Thieme, "calls for a new development in the sphere of mind. This is found in the performance, in August next, at Bayreuth, of Wagner's 'Ring of Nibelungen Legends,' a work of art, uniting all arts. The immaturity of music, the youngest of the arts, has hitherto delayed their renaissance, and that for which five centuries have toiled, one man is now permitted to realize. Many years ago Wagner conceived the high ambition of founding an art-shrine for Germany, nor did he rest until he had inaugurated the building of an art-temple free from all confining conventionalities, and fashioned in a mould befitting his genius. Germany gave willingly that he might build. A monument so unique and so full of significance in the history of art, demands a recognition and a memorial. Such we offer to all friends of art in the form of this Medal." W. T. R. M.

COINS OF ALEXANDER.

EVELYN, in his "Sculptura," quoting from Horace, says that Alexander the Great ordained that no one should take his portrait on *gems* but Pyrgoteles; no one should paint him but Apelles; and no one should stamp his head on *coins* but Lysippus. We have no remains of the work of Apelles, but the gems and coins of Alexander are superb, and quite excuse the monopoly. Alexander, by the bye, was the first king who had his portrait impressed on coins, only the gods having that honor previous to his assumed deification in the temple of Jupiter Ammon. The generals of Alexander, as they procured to themselves the title of king, assumed the privilege of having their portraits stamped on their coins, and so the practice became a custom.—*American Bibliopolist*.

CHINESE USE OF COINS.

THE "Territorial Enterprise" tells of a "defunct Celestial," who was "packed and ticketed through to China's heaven in a costly casket, the body being packed around with bits of gold spotted paper to keep off devils; sundry provisions of pork, rice, candies," &c., and "a plentiful supply of Chinese coins to pay his expenses on the road to kingdom come." "In his mouth was placed a U. S. ten cent piece (silver) to show where he came from." I. F. W.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

March 3. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. The President announced donations from Mr. Thomas Warren, of Coshocton, N. Y., of Medals struck on the celebration of the golden wedding of his parents, and of Mr. R. A. Brock, of Richmond, Va., of three "Confederate States" bonds. Dr. Green exhibited the Italian Medal found among the roots of the Old Elm on Boston Common,* and the large bronze Medal of Agassiz, described in the Journal, X. 6. Mr. Holland showed several Medals, including that of the battle of Germantown, that presented to General Greene in lead, that presented to De Fleury in bronze, and the obverse of that presented to Col. Henry Lee in bronze. The meeting was devoted to an exhibition of U. S. coins of 1798 and 1799. Mr. Child showed half-eagle, two dollars, and four cents of 1798, and three dollars and cent of 1799; Mr. Crosby seven cents of 1798 and two cents of 1799; the Secretary two eagles, two half-eagles, quarter-eagle, four dollars, two dimes and four cents of 1798, and eagle, three half-eagles, three dollars, and two cents of 1799. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

April 7. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted, and a letter from Mr. Isaac F. Wood of New York, enclosing the Washington Medal of St. John's Guild Hospital, with an impression of a rejected reverse and a broken obverse. Dr. Hall exhibited one of the few specimens of the small piece "NEW YORKE IN AMERICA," and a beautiful New Jersey cent. Mr. Holland showed the Indian Medals of George I. and George III., the obverse of a Medal of De Witt Clinton, and a small one said to have the heads of Peter Stuyvesant and wife. The Secretary exhibited a silver Medal of the "TRUE BLUE CLUB" 1812, and some rare patterns of the U. S. Mint of 1870 and 1875. The meeting was devoted to an exhibition of U. S. coins of 1800 and 1801. Mr. Child showed half-eagle, two dollars, two cents and two half-cents of 1800, and dollar, half-dollar and three cents of 1801; Mr. Crosby, two cents and half-cent of 1800, and cent of 1801; the Secretary, eagle, half-eagle, dollar, two dimes, two half-dimes, three cents and half-cent of 1800, and eagle, dollar, half-dollar, dime, half-dime and five cents of 1801. The Society adjourned just before 5 P. M.

May 5. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted, and a letter from Mr. Isaac F. Wood of New York, accompanying a donation to the Society of the large Medal struck by the Amer. Num. and Archæol. Society, in honor of Abraham Lincoln; the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Wood. Mr. Holland presented an impression in silver struck for him from an old die with the head of the Rev. Dr. Wm. E. Channing; it has no reverse. Mr. Child exhibited five cents of 1808 and 1825. The meeting was devoted to an exhibition of U. S. coins of 1802 and 1803. Mr. Crosby showed seven cents and half-cent of 1802, and five cents and half-cent of 1803; Mr. Child half-eagle, two dollars, half-dollar, five cents and half-cent of 1802, and two dollars, half-dollar, four cents and half-cent of 1803; the Secretary half-eagle, quarter-eagle, two dollars, half-dollar, dime, half-dime, seven cents and half-cent of 1802, and two eagles, half-eagle, dollar, half-dollar, dime, half-dime, six cents and three half-cents of 1803. The Society adjourned shortly before 5 P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, *Secretary.*

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

THE Annual Meeting was held at Mott Memorial Hall, March 21, 1876, Vice-President Parish in the chair. Sylvester Sage Crosby of Massachusetts, and John T. Wood, B. A., of Great Britain, were elected Honorary Members. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in favor of the Society. The Curator reported an increase to the Cabinet of 71 Coins and Medals during the year by donations. The Librarian

* See *Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. X., page 93.

reported additions by donations and purchase, of 14 bound volumes, 84 pamphlets and circulars, 51 coin catalogues, 46 serials, and 10 autographs and photographs, the greater part of which were contributed by thirty donors. The Society has sustained losses by death during the past year of 1 honorary, 3 permanent corresponding, and 1 resident member. The present membership is 14 honorary, 54 corresponding, (of both classes,) and 34 resident members.

Curator Groh reported donations; from Geo. H. Lovett, a bronze Lincoln Medal (Holland's Centennial List, No. 35); from W. H. S. Wood, Medal maps of the world, size 26; from Isaac F. Wood, a Medal of Andrew Johnson and Philadelphia Convention, proof; one bronze Medal, National Rifle Association; one set toy money; one each copper and white metal of second variety of his Martha Washington Centennial Reception Medal, "Series C," No. 5. In the first variety of this Medal the reverse die (head of Washington to left in military dress) broke after striking 10 silver, 1 copper, and 4 white metal. The Librarian announced donations of additional numbers of Canadian Antiquarian, autograph letters of several medical men, eight publications of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and several other pamphlets, newspapers and coin catalogues of various dates, (nearly completing the Society's collection,) and serials and almanacs for the current year; also, by subscription, additional numbers of the various Numismatic Journals.

The following officers were then elected: Chas. E. Anthon, LL. D., *President*; Daniel Parish, Jr., Frederic J. De Peyster, Alexander Balmanno, *Vice-Presidents*; Wm. Poillon, *Secretary*; Isaac F. Wood, *Librarian*; Benjamin Betts, *Treasurer*; and Edward Groh, *Curator*.

Mr. I. F. Wood showed a fine electrotype copy of Wright's Declaration of Independence Medal, reverse, the copy of Trumbull's celebrated painting; a specimen in silver from the broken die, known as the first variety of his "Martha Washington Reception Medal," of which only ten were struck; a fine Martha Washington dime of 1792; a curious satirical Medal in copper, relative to Maria Theresa and the war of the Austrian succession, bearing on each side the date 1742, one side representing the Empress naked, while the Elector of Bavaria is running away with her clothes, and saying, "I have won;" on the other side the victorious Maria Theresa is drawing on the Elector's breeches, and saying, "You have lost." Mr. Wood also exhibited a beautiful little silver war Medal of the Spanish African campaign of 1860, size 12, obverse, a laureated head of Queen Isabella, with gracefully draped bust within a wreath which supports an escutcheon beneath bearing the date 1860; reverse, the names of eleven battles and engagements, of which "Tetuan" is the most prominent. The Medal is set within the four points of a cross. He also showed, in behalf of Mr. Demarest, a fine specimen of the large Jefferson Peace Medal, size 64. From the Society's collection the following were exhibited: a war Medal of honor ordered by Resolution of Congress, March 3, 1863, presented by the late Secretary Stanton, bronze; a war Medal presented by Major General Q. A. Gilmore, for gallant and meritorious conduct, reverse, Fort Sumter, Aug. 23, 1863. Bronze. Also, a case of Napoleon Medals.

WILLIAM POILLON, *Secretary*.

CLIPPINGS.

THE archæological commission at Rome has published a catalogue of the relics of ancient art discovered in that city during the year 1875. These antiquities are classified as follows: 14 statues, 20 heads or busts, 1 sarcophagus, 2 funeral urns, 37 articles of sacred ornamentation, 9 engraved stones, 6 pieces of sculptured ivory or bone, 5 objects of gold, 4 of silver, 22 of bronze, 405 pieces of earthenware, (amphoræ, lamps, &c.,) 284 architectural fragments, a great number of inscriptions on marble, and a quantity of utensils of all kinds. The coins found in the excavations were 9 of gold, 21 of silver, and 6,715 of bronze.

AND now the Centennial folks are agitated because France has made a better Medal than theirs, and proposes selling it here. France always was a little ahead in the Medal line, and it is to be hoped that she will continue to "thrust her wares upon us" until we can do something creditable ourselves.—*Boston Transcript*.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

WHAT is the signification of the coin described below?

Obverse. Apparently a bust of George III. laureated and in armor. Beneath the shoulder G. D. Legend, GREGORY — III. PON. *Reverse.* Britannia as on English halfpennies. In the exergue, 1777. Legend, BRITANN. — RULE. Copper. S.

"DR. C. H. PINNEY of Wallingford, Conn., has a rare Macedonian coin. It is of silver, about the size of a half-dollar. It bears upon its face a profile in bold relief of Alexander the Great, and on the reverse some Greek characters, with Zeus seated in the chair of state with a falcon standing near. It is a very handsome coin, and although coined 320 years B. C., it is about as perfect as though of the present century. It is believed to be the only one of the kind in this country."

This extract, if of earlier date, would have found a place in the article printed in the *Journal*, Vol. VIII, p. 55. Silver coins of Alexander the Great are as plenty as any one could wish, and constantly appear in auctions in New York. Every decent collection has one or more, and I have several similar to Dr. Pinney's and in perfect preservation. W. S. A.

ONE would have supposed that the descendants and representatives of the original members of the Cincinnati would have religiously preserved as heirlooms the gold medals that they were entitled to wear. But the fact is so many of them have been sent to the melting-pot, that but few of the originals are known to exist.

THE Prussian Government has purchased for the Berlin Museum, at a cost of \$150,000, the famous collection of ancient Medals made by Count Prokesch-Osten, for many years Austrian Internuncio to the Porte, but now retired from active service. The collection contains some of the finest specimens of this branch of Greek art extant.

NATURALLY enough they don't like paper money at Gold Hill, Nevada, and the newspaper there is savage upon "the very bad and dirty notes of the national banks which have been in circulation long enough to cover them with grime and make them unwholesome to look at and unhealthy to handle."

GOVERNOR ALLEN, on behalf of the State of Ohio, has received a Medal from the Emperor of Austria, which was awarded as a special token to the State for its large contributions of useful productions to the Vienna Exposition.

OUR SILVER CURRENCY.

THE June number of the *Galaxy* has some interesting notes and reminiscences on the text suggested by the reappearance of silver "change," which we should like to print in full, but can find room for a small portion only. We make the following extracts:—

"The event of the past month has been the return to specie payments as far as the fractional parts of a dollar are concerned. And yet it is not a return to specie payments, even if the silver dollar should be brought into circulation; for silver has ceased to be specie or a legal tender of payment in the principal civilized nations, except for very small sums. But still it is real money, which we have not seen in our daily transactions for fifteen years; and its appearance has made a sensation: and that sensation has caused a sort of hoarding of the pretty, fresh, white silver circles, . . . and it is almost as hard to get a dollar changed now as it was in 1861. . . . We may all rejoice at the return of the days when a dollar was a dollar, when the filthiness of lucre was not spread in a thin film upon slips of paper, . . . and when money could not be torn up or reduced to pulp by an accidental wetting. . . . The appearance of real money will produce a change in manners and customs and speech. Pocket books will go out and purses will come in. . . . Opulent persons who like to handle their funds and attract attention to their possession of the precious metals, may again bestride the hearth, and soothe their sense of touch and hearing by jingling such silver as they carry in the pouches of their nether garments. Elegant people will, after a while, no longer call money 'stamps.' If they do not return to the former beauties of phraseology upon this subject, and call it 'tin,' 'spoons,' 'brads,' or 'rocks,' they must needs invent some other synonymes equally accurate and expressive. For some years past it has been said of an eligible party of either sex that he or she 'had the stamps;' and the slang had almost become an accepted phrase, so that people not meaning to be slangy, would say they hadn't the stamps to do this or that thing, meaning that they hadn't the money, and could not afford to do what they

wished or were asked to do. This use of 'stamps,' for 'money,' is one of those traits of language that have an historical significance, and record . . . the experience of the people."

The article then describes the history of the "rise and progress" of postal currency and mentions the sudden disappearance of all metallic currency at the outbreak of the war which caused at first the circulation of postage stamps in their normal state of stickiness; the relief afforded by small envelopes to hold them; the petty swindling which followed this, when 'short count' or worthless stamps victimized the recipient; the first issues of the fractional currency, having postage stamps of various denominations engraved upon it, and its displacement by the later issues of paper, now finally, let us hope, disappearing. It next has some forcible remarks to make on the appearance of our coinage:—

"Why is it that we have the ugliest money of all civilized nations? For such undoubtedly our silver coinage is. The design is poor, commonplace, tasteless, characterless, and the execution is like thereunto. Our silver coins do not even look like money. They have rather the appearance of tokens or mean medals. One reason of this is that the design is so inartistic and so insignificant. That young woman sitting on nothing in particular, wearing nothing to speak of, looking over her shoulder at nothing imaginable, and bearing in her left hand something that looks like a broomstick with a woolen nightcap on it—what is she doing there? what is the meaning of her? She is Liberty, we are told, and there is a label to that effect across a shield at her right, her need of which is not in any way manifest. But she might as well be anything else as Liberty; and at the first glance she looks much more like a spinster in her smock, with a distaff in her hand. Such a figure has no proper place upon a coin. On the reverse the eagle has the contrary fault of being too natural, too much like a real eagle. In numismatic art animals have conventional forms, which are far more pleasing and effective than the most careful and exact imitation of nature can be. Compare one of our silver coins with those of Great Britain, France or Germany, and see how mean, slight, flimsy, inartistic and unmoneylike it looks. Our coins of forty or fifty years ago were much better in every respect, and looked much more like money, the reason being that they bore a head of Liberty which was bold, clear, and well defined in comparison with the weak thing that the Mint has given us for the last thirty years or so. The eagle too, although erring on the side of naturalness, was more suited in design to coinage. But still better were the coins struck at the end of the last century and the beginning of this one. The eagle was a real heraldic eagle, the head of Liberty had more character, and the whole work was bolder and better in every way. But even they had the great defect of being without significance in design. What is a head of Liberty? What distinctive character can be given to a head upon a coin which will make it more like Liberty than anything else? . . . The coins of the French republic bear a head supposed to typify the Republic. It has in its features and in its decorations some character and significance, and it is bold and stands out in good relief, as it should. But we can do better than to use such mere abstractions, no matter how bold the design, how high the relief, or how fine the workmanship. . . . From this utterly unmeaning and uninteresting condition our coin might be lifted by the substitution, in place of this so-called Liberty, of two heads, the appropriateness of which upon our coins—and indeed almost their right to be there—would be felt by every American, and not only so, but recognized by the whole world. It is hardly necessary to say that the heads we mean are those of Washington and Franklin. . . . And fortune, nature, Providence—what you will—so ordered it that neither of them left descendants of their own name to be elevated by the appearance of their ancestors' head upon a nation's coinage. There are no Washingtons, no Franklins to say, 'This is the image and superscription of the head of our family.' All democratic fear of the elevation and glorification of individuals or of families is therefore to be set aside at once as having no occasion. It so happens also that these two men represent the two elements of our population, the two great divisions of our country. One was a Virginia planter; the other, a Philadelphia printer, born in Boston, grew from a printer into a philosopher and a statesman. The proper place for Washington's head would be upon the gold pieces; for no one would dispute the appropriateness of placing that of the author of 'Poor Richard's Almanac,' and of the adage, 'A penny saved is a penny earned,' upon the silver coins representing fractional parts of a dollar, and upon the cents. Thus our gold and silver coins would be distinguished from each other in design, not as they now are by the mere difference between a meaningless head and a meaningless sitting figure, but by two noble portrait busts of which an American might be prouder than any European ever was of the effigy of king or kaiser. With this change and with a return to the old breadth of piece, and the heraldic eagle used in the beginning of this century (the two examples now before us are dated 1803 and 1805), we should have a coinage which instead of being as now the meanest in appearance and most insignificant of all that is known, would be the most beautiful and the most fraught with associations of historic interest and national pride. We commend the subject to the attention of the House, and hope that some member may be found who will take it up and bring it before the people."

EDITORIAL.

THE resumption of silver circulation, one step towards specie payments, which has taken place since the last number of the *Journal* was issued, is a cause for congratulation. The amount of silver issued from the sub-treasury at Boston, from April 20th to June 1st, was not much less than a million and a quarter of dollars, and in other cities proportionately large payments have been made. The total amount of silver issued by the U. S. Treasury to May 29, last, was \$7,389,288. Fractional currency redeemed with silver, \$4,414,557.

NOTWITHSTANDING the large amounts of silver currency already put into circulation, it has not yet altogether displaced the dirty paper. The Government might advantageously pay out silver "change" at its Post Offices, and retire the fractional currency as fast as received, and thus help on the good work which is now so well advanced. We shall look with some interest to see whether our National Treasury has not largely profited by the use of paper money for fractional parts of a dollar, or rather by its destruction while in circulation. It is already hinted that the proportionate receipts of some of the earlier issues are very much less than they should be, if there has been no such loss by the people. Fire and water, wear and tear, the "tooth of time" and many other causes have destroyed, we hear, not less than one tenth, perhaps one fifth even, of what remains charged on the Treasury Books to the amount in circulation of those issues.

On a previous page an extract has been printed from the *Galaxy*, whose "Nebulous Person"—unlike nebulae generally—is bright and sparkling, and indulges himself with some severe and, it must be admitted, truthful comments upon the artistic appearance of our national coinage. He contrasts it unfavorably with that of other nations, England among the rest; but the *London Athenæum*, two or three years ago, remarked: "Artistically speaking there is not much to be said for the British coinage. . . . Usually, if anything can be more commonplace, not to say stupid than our coins, it is our medals." What does the *Galaxy* say about the French Exposition Medal as a work of art—the reverse, particularly? The idea of placing the head of Washington on our coinage has been often suggested, and beside the Washington cents, &c., proposed for adoption in the last century, some of the pattern five cent pieces struck in 1866, had his bust.

THE *London Academy* cautions its readers against "Bogus Antiques," a manufactory for which a correspondent has discovered in Florence, and recently visited. Egypt has long been famous for similar frauds, and now Italy adopts this device for plundering credulous strangers.

AN extensive sale of valuable coins and medals, the property of Mr. L. G. Parmelee of Boston, with a few belonging to Mr. J. Augustus Johnson, took place at the sales-rooms of Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co., New York, on Monday, June 12, and following days. The list was particularly rich in Colonials, Medals, Washingtons, Politicals, &c., and early issues of the United States Mint; there were also many ancient coins, early English, and continental pieces, &c. The Catalogue, 138 pages, contained upwards of 2,900 lots, and was prepared by Mr. W. H. Strobbridge. We shall give a list of prices obtained for some of the principal pieces in our next issue.

THE Martha Washington Centennial Medals, (Holland LII,) Obverse, Head of Martha Washington; Reverse, Bust of Washington, can now be obtained of Edward Cogan, Brooklyn, or J. W. Haseltine, Philadelphia. Price, in silver \$2.00, copper 50 cents, white metal 25 cents, or the set for \$2.50. By registered letter, 10 cents extra.

THE Channing Medal, which was shown by Mr. H. W. Holland, at the May meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society, was struck from a die originally intended as a Prize Medal for the University of Glasgow, but which has never been used. Twenty-five only were struck, all in silver. Mr. Holland has a few impressions remaining, which can be obtained, by addressing him, at 33 School Street, Boston. Price, \$5.

CURRENCY.

A MATTER of interest—a coupon.

THE latest dime novel—the silver ten-cent piece.

VESTED interest—Money in the waistcoat pocket.

THE silver moon has plenty of change,—four quarters a month.

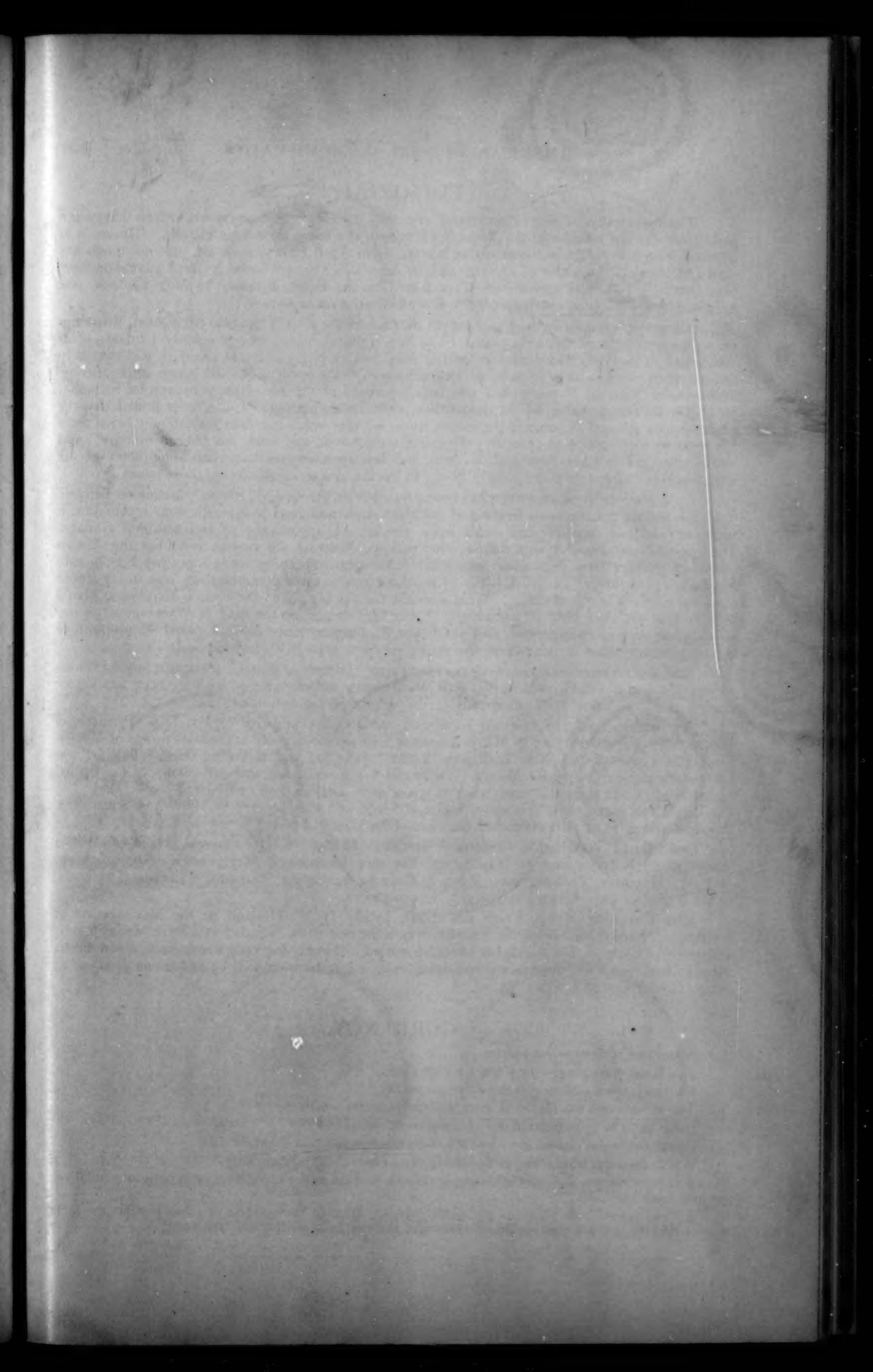
GOLD has a large proportion of condensed sunbeams.—*Kircher*.

CONGRESS having passed the silver bill, the President has coin-cided.

WE'LL dust him from a bag of Spanish gold.—*Tennyson's* "Queen Mary."

THE bull-frog was the first circulating greenback, and the entire breed have been notorious inflationists ever since the flood.

A CLEVELAND belle despises the silver currency because the goddess of Liberty wears the same style of drapery that adorned her fifteen years ago, and that is so terribly old fashioned!





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MASONIC MEDALS.